

## Message Text

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22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P 171152Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6417

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5506

EXDIS

NOFROM

E.O.11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP FR

SUBJECT: SUAREZ-CHIRAC MEETING

REF: PARIS 20411, MADRID 5380 MADRID 5504

1. EMBOFF RECEIVED AN AUTHORITATIVE BRIEFING YESTERDAY  
(PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF PARIS LATEST MESSAGE) ON PRIME  
MINISTER SUAREZ, CONVERSATION WITH CHIRAC  
IN POINT OF FACT ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE THE INSPIRATION FOR  
THE TRIP WAS A TELEPHONE CALL BY PRESIDENT GISCARD TO KING JUAN CARLOS

SHORTLY AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE SUAREST CABINET  
OUT SOURCE THAT EXFOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA'S VERSION  
OF THE HAPPENINGS COULD BE DAMAGING THE SPANISH IMAGE IN  
THE FRENCH MEDIA. (OUR SOURCE IS UNFRIENDLY TO AREILZA,  
WE SHOULD NOT) A A RESULT OF THE CALL, THE KING ASKED  
SUAREZ TO SEE CHIRAC, HOPEFULLY TO BE SECRET UNTIL  
AFTER HIS RETURN.

2. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT SUAREZ ARTICULATE AND  
PERSUASIVE MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION UPON THE FRENCH  
AFTER THE UNUAL EXCHANGE OF MUTAL DESIRES TO DEEPEN  
AND EXPAND FRENCH SPANISH TIES, SUAREZ OFFERED TO GIVE  
A RUNDOWN ON THE NEW GOS APPROACH. AFTER HE DID SO,  
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IN TERMS CONSONANT WITH HIS ADDRESS TO THE NATION AND

THE NOW ANNOUNCED PROGRAM, CHIRAC SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD NO PARTICULAR ADVICE TO OFFER AND WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE KING AND SUAREZ EFFORTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE ONE OBSERVATION, THAT THE FRENCH WERE CONCERNED THAT THE PROCESS MIGHT GO TOO FAST AND THUS LEAD TO DIFFICULTIES. SUAREZ THEN EXPLAINED THAT IN THE CURRENT CONFUSION, THERE WAS A SALIENT NEED TO GET TO THE POLLS AS QUICKLY AS FEASIBLE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A CLEAR MANDATE FOR THE REFORM PROCESS AND PUT AN END TO THE SNIPING FROM RIGHT AND LEFT WITH RESPECT TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PROCESS.

3. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, CHIRAC TOLD SUAREZ THAT SPAIN'S POLITICAL APPROACH TO ITS DOMESTIC SITUATION, IN THE EYES OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HAD BEEN ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY AND THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC, HOWEVER, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO FULL SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE EEC. SPAIN'S AGRICULTURAL ENDEAVOR PROVIDED QUANTITIES OF GOOD PRODUCE AT LOWER PRICES THAN IN FRANCE, AND THOUGH SPANISH PRICES MIGHT RISE, THEY WOULD NOT CATCH UP WITH THE FRENCH PRICES. NO GOVERNMENT COULD SURVIVE AN ELECTION WHICH LET SPANISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE IN UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COMMON MARKET ENTRANCE. (THE GERMANS AND BRITISH, CHIRAC SAID, MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS SINCE THEY SOUGHT TO DISMANTLE THE CAP.) HE WAS QUITE ADAMANT ON THIS POINT, AFTERWARDS FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN DENIAU EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH CHIRAC'S VIEW TO SUAREZ, SAYING THAT HE WAS TOO SINGLEMINDED ON THIS ISSUE, A MATTER WHICH HAD LED DENIAU TO LEAVE THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY IN EARLIER DAYS. IN FACT, FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO RATIONALIZE THEIR AGRICULTURE, AND IF SPAIN WOULD BECOME MORE OPEN TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE COMMON MARKET AND NOT MOVE TOWARDS TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON US AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS, SOMETHING PERHAPS COULD BE WORKED OUT OVER TIME.

4. CHIRAC STRESSED FRANCE'S INTEREST IN INTRODUCING THE SECAM COLOR TV SYSTEM AND GETTING SPANISH ON BOARD  
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THE AIRBUS AS OTHER IMPORTANT FRENCH ECONOMIC CONCERNS. STABLER

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